

# **Council on Retention and Graduation Steering Committee**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**January 17, 2008**

**UC 3171**

**Presiding: Scott Evenbeck**

**Present:** Cathy Buyarski, Scott Evenbeck, Sharon Hamilton, Kathy Johnson, Steve Jones, Megan Palmer, Gary Pike, Rebecca Porter, David Sabol, Gayle Williams, Marianne Wokeck

**Regrets:** Susan Montgomery, Frank Ross, Michelle Verduzco

1. Evenbeck welcomed everyone.
2. Minutes from the previous meeting on November 29, 2007, were approved.
3. CRG Task Force for Seniors:  
Johnson and Wokeck are on this task force. Johnson distributed a draft of a senior survey to the committee previous to the meeting. Johnson said this task force is trying to understand why students do not graduate. Johnson explained how they chose the questions on the survey; many came from the action team. Evenbeck said he has heard recently that students are unable to get into certain courses. There was discussion on this point. Suggestions were offered on revisions for the survey questions.

There was a discussion about how to administer the survey. Johnson asked if they could use the Center for Teaching and Learning to administer surveys like this to collect information. Evenbeck wondered if we could maximize our contacts. For example, if physics students saw a survey coming from Gavrin, they might fill it out. Johnson said they discussed this, but there is no mechanism that she knows of to organize key contacts. Pike observed that this is a long survey. He expressed concern about students receiving two surveys. There needs to be collaboration. Wokeck suggested they could go through advisors. There was further discussion on how the survey should be administered. Wokeck suggested working with capstone people to contact those students. Evenbeck said another population we might want to reach is students who have senior classification, but are not here now. Pike said it would be possible to track those students. There was discussion about this. Pike said that we need to treat transfer students differently. Some transfer in with over 100 hours. Everyone agreed. Wokeck suggested we start the survey with our students first. Evenbeck said many of our students are transfer students. It was agreed to go back to 2002. Pike said we could use the national clearinghouse to track some of these students.

Johnson said another task they were charged with was finding people to serve on the task force, but they decided to collect data first, and then find volunteers later.

Buyarski said that she and Pike met recently about doing an advising survey. She explained what the advising survey would ask and what data they are trying to collect. This survey will be administered in late March. There was additional discussion on this point and about surveys on campus. Johnson asked where they should target the survey. For example, the

School of Nursing does not have the same problem graduating seniors as other schools. Evenbeck suggested the Schools of Science and Liberal Arts. Johnson added the School of Education. There was discussion about adding SPEA, Herron, and Social Work.

4. CRG Task Force for Sophomores:

The committee agreed unanimously to appoint Frank Ross to head this task force. Johnson and Wokeck are also on the task force. Evenbeck said he will talk to Ross about this.

5. CRG Task Force for Transfer Students:

Williams is organizing a group to go to the Conference of the Institute for the Study of Transfer Students at the University of North Texas.

6. IPAS Transfer Report:

The Indiana Project on Academic Success Transfer Report (September 2007) was distributed. Evenbeck explained that this is a study funded by Lumina. It tells where our students go when they leave here. Most of the students go to Ivy Tech. Buyarski noted that a large portion of our students are going to Ivy Tech because we academically dismiss them. There was a discussion about running a report on the GPA of students who leave IUPUI and go to Ivy Tech. Wokeck said if we really want to know what Ivy Tech does for us, then we need data. She also expressed concern that the emphasis on the professional schools is hurting us. The students also need to hear why they should start here. There was discussion on this point. This is a resource issue. The science and liberal arts programs are the heart of any campus. Ball State does a great job of selling their programs. Williams asked what other urban campuses do. We do not have to reinvent the wheel. Wokeck said that the administration needs to speak out on this issue. We also need to see something come from marketing. There is an extraordinary sense of frustration.

7. IUPUI Transfer Report:

Evenbeck discussed the IUPUI Transfer Report. The report has not been released, but Evenbeck gave a few highlights, including statistics on students who are more likely to transfer out.

8. Spring Census Report:

The latest census report was distributed. Evenbeck noted that many of the students who are not enrolled are on the financial checklist. Buyarski told about a pilot program they have been working on. They put together a group of students who owed money to the bursar. For the students who took part in the program, arrangements were made for them to have access to additional funds. In order to participate in the program, students had to agree to attend a financial literacy workshop. Buyarski said they eliminated students who wrote bad checks, had parking tickets, had bad debt, etc. Nine students agreed to participate in the program. Buyarski told about a student who refused to help himself. This issue is about life management and bad decision making. The original plan was to get students a job on campus, but that did not work out for the pilot program. Pike said, related to this issue, he would like to share data at the March 18 meeting about students who work on campus. Buyarski agreed to assist Pike in presenting information at this meeting.

9. Other Business:

Pike gave an update on the national student clearinghouse. Evenbeck said that he has always wondered how many of our students went to Purdue. Pike replied about two percent of our students go there.

Evenbeck mentioned that at the last meeting he told us that IUPUI might be participating in the Jobs for the Future project, which hired Robert Matthews. This is a project that looks at interventions and the cost of those interventions. Williams is leading our effort with that project. Williams explained that 12 institutions have been invited to participate. They will be looking at the Summer Bridge program. Williams and Hansen are both working on this project and will be organizing a team. They will share data as it becomes available. Wokeck said that as Bridge grows, faculty time needs to be considered. Williams noted that the faculty are paid, but Wokeck does not believe the payment is sufficient. They also need a course release; otherwise, we will be expanding on the backs of faculty. Buyarski said the same is true for advising. So many advisors are occupied with Bridge, that they have no advisors left to help current students.

Evenbeck said that our retention rate is inching up. Williams said she expects to have her retention report completed this summer.

Evenbeck said that with Lauren Chism's leadership, we are continuing to expand the TLCs. We have a team that has been accepted to go to Evergreen this year. It is unusual for an institution to be selected two consecutive years.

Pike discussed the volunteer system of accountability. We will now have to present credible evidence that our students are learning. There is a bill in the state legislature. If this bill gets passed, Pike said his office will not have time to do any support for the campus because they will be spending their time with external reporting. There was additional discussion about this.

10. Update on Degree Audits:

Porter distributed a report. There was a discussion about the new campus center. Porter reviewed the report and discussed how degree audits will be helpful to students and advisors. The deans have been asked to invest resources in degree audits. With the recent upgrade, some resources have not been available. Porter discussed the need for an automated system. This is not just a matter of listing information printed in a catalog. There are many exceptions and changes within departments. Wokeck believes we need to deal with changes in policy in a structural way. Hamilton discussed the Communities of Practice program for each PUL. There was discussion about connecting RISE to the PULs.

11. Future Agendas:

Evenbeck said the agenda for next month can include the three CRG task forces. We can also discuss the agenda for the full council meeting on March 18. The committee agreed to this. Jones also suggested discussing RISE.

12. Adjourned.

**Action Items:**

- Evenbeck will talk to Ross about serving as chair of the CRG Task Force for Sophomores.
- Pike and Buyarski will present information at the March 18 meeting about students working on campus.

**Additional Handouts:**

- Article: “The Changes One Department Made to Increase Student Engagement and Graduation Rates” by Bob Cipriano and Richard L. Riccardi
- Report: Induced Course Load
- Report: Financial Registration Block

Submitted by:  
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